



A Chesapeake Thrives Conference

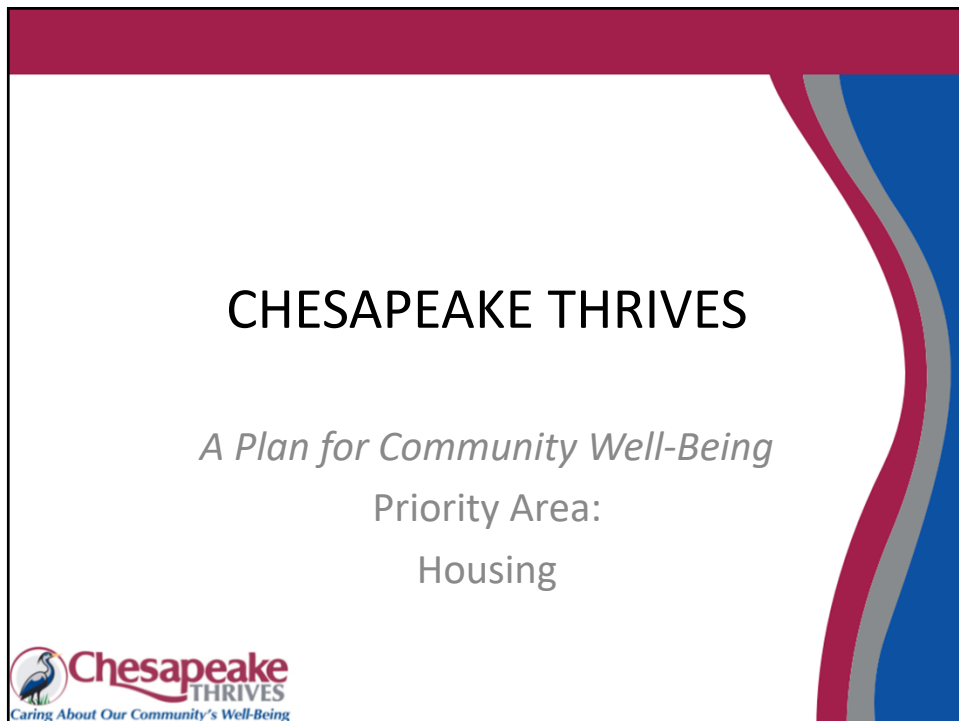
The Power of Partnerships

Building community connections to improve resident outcomes

Breakout Session:
Housing




Chesapeake
THRIVES
Caring About Our Community's Well-Being



CHESAPEAKE THRIVES

A Plan for Community Well-Being

Priority Area:
Housing




Chesapeake
THRIVES
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Housing

Definition:
Housing generally refers to the community's effort to ensure that members of society have a home to live in that is safe, affordable and healthy.

DATA

According to American Community Survey, 54.4% of household income is spent on rent in the City of Chesapeake



54.4%

Renters spending 30% or more of Household Income or Rent by Age

Age Group	Percentage
15-24	~55%
25-34	~50%
35-64	~45%
65+	~65%
Overall	~50%

STRENGTHS

- Active in Continuum of Care and robust HMIS
- ForkKids, Inc moved to South Norfolk
- Police officers understand homelessness and the balance between enforcement/helping people
- Libraries and Parks, Recreation, and Tourism are key partners in identifying and responding to the needs of those youth, individuals, and families experiencing homelessness

WEAKNESSES


- Lack of shelter options and affordable housing for individuals, families and seniors

OPPORTUNITIES

- Funding through the American Rescue Plan for seniors' housing and other populations
- Outreach to people experiencing homelessness
- Bond issuances for affordable housing development

THREATS

- Pushback from communities regarding affordable housing
- Lack of affordable housing, permanent supportive housing, and supportive resources
- Lack of rental stock
- Because of lack of rental stock, housing vouchers go unused
- No plans for affordable housing and no incentive for developers to compete for Low-income Housing Tax Credits




Chesapeake THRIVES
Caring About Our Community's Well-Being

Missing Continuum Needs/Supply/Needs Table

Housing Type	Population	Needs	Service	Strategy/ Goals	Tools	Partners
Tools and Funding Lists	Homeless				See Core VEC line services, ACAP, CARE, ACAP, EFD, Food Community	
Emergency Shelter	Homeless			As part of program while impacted	VA, DHS, CASH, COE Programs, VEC Care VEC, etc. Services, ACAP, Food Community	
Subsidized units with Supportive Services	Chemically Homeless	50-100 units currently in Miller (2022) as well as Family (in 2023/2024). CCR Chesapeake Community		Provide services to individuals with history of SMI who are struggling with substance use issues.	SOC, DHS, CASH, EAD, ACAP, VEC, Food Bank, Supportive Housing, VEC, VEC, Veterans Affairs.	
Multifamily Low Income Apartments	Low Income Families				LPHC, Rental Assistance, Project Based, Section 502	SOC, VEC, VEC, Housing, Section 502, Wages, Veterans for benefits

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HOUSING

- Objective: Increase housing accessibility and affordability for families and individuals
- Strategies:
 - Collaborate with stakeholders to form planning group around the Housing priority area
 - Provide public education to increase awareness of housing as a key determinant of well-being and build an inclusive narrative around housing affordability and accessibility
 - Provide financial support and administer programs for low to moderate income home buyers



HOUSING

- Objective: Identify opportunities with key partners for leveraging and creating new resources
- Strategies;
 - Research best practices on housing solutions
 - Conduct an analysis of current housing capacity
 - Foster collaboration with community partners
 - Continue relationships with grant sub-recipients to leverage existing and new resources to expand affordable housing opportunities



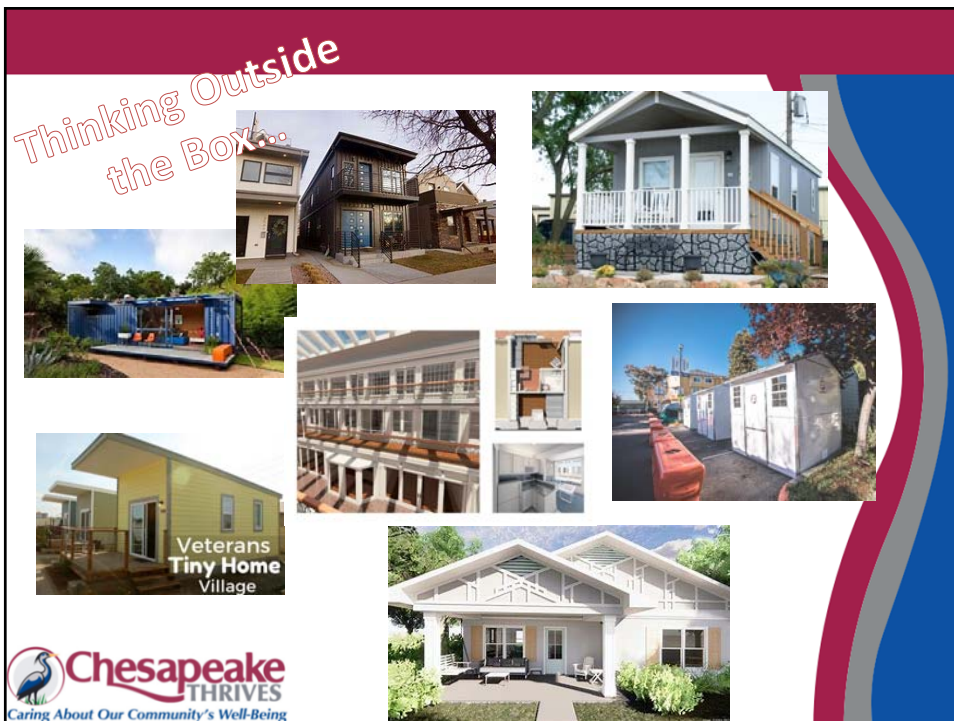
HOUSING

- Objective: Reduce homelessness for individuals and families in Chesapeake
- Strategies:
 - Use resident entry model for prevention, intervention and follow up
 - Expand SRO network and other income contingent housing
 - Mitigate barriers to housing
 - Develop standards for private landlords
 - Provide financial support to grant sub-recipients that focus on homeless prevention and sustainable solutions to housing crisis



HOUSING

- Objective: Focus on equitable and sustainable affordable housing
- Strategies:
 - Expand efforts to recruit landlords to accept vouchers
 - Leverage resources and interagency collaboration to provide a variety of sustainable and innovative housing solutions
 - Provide financial support to developers of affordable housing



Discussion

GOAL of the Discussion:

These are selected Objectives and Strategies from the Housing dashboard. These are offered to introduce you to Chesapeake Thrives and to begin the conversation about the role all of us have in helping families and individuals in Chesapeake.

How do these goals and objectives connect with the work you're doing now?

How do you see connecting with these in the future?



NEXT STEPS?



Chesapeake Thrives Workgroup HOUSING

Chesapeake Redevelopment and Housing Authority
 Chesapeake Human Services
 Chesapeake City Manager's Office
 Chesapeake Planning
 Chesapeake Integrated Behavioral Health (CIBH)
 ForKids
 Healthy Chesapeake
 Hampton Roads Planning District
 CAST (Chesapeake Area Shelter Team-faith-based community)
 Agape Feast Meals-faith-based community feeding program
 Chesapeake Humane Society
 Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia



Participant Discussion

Housing Information & Discussion

- CRHA operates the Housing Choice Voucher Program, in which the client pays 30% of their income and the program subsidizes up to the maximum allowable rent.
- They also operate 467 public housing units. There are 1600 current vouchers, which include veterans, youth coming out of foster care, disabled. They also cover special programs such as Herons Landing and Cypress Landing. Additionally, they monitor 228 affordable rental units.
- There are 5,000 people on the waiting list. The last time they opened the application process for 4 hours, they received 14,000 applications!!
- Over 50% of Chesapeake residents are paying over 30% of their income in housing costs (actually 54.4%-dashboard slide).
- CRHA works to identify and advocate for quality, diverse, mixed income housing. They work with several partners including, HUD, ForKids, the Housing Hotline, faith-based partners and sometimes the Police Department. There are agencies who work to secure low-income tax credits, bond issuance and overnight winter sheltering for homeless individuals.
- There is definitely a lack of emergency sheltering as well as affordable housing. Approximately, 150 voucher holders are currently seeking rentals and can't find them. Recently HUD has increased the maximum allowable rent by 10% to try to open up more rental options.
- Barriers to affordable housing include NIMBY, zoning/code restrictions. Land and permissions are the most important needs to developing affordable housing.
- John advised that Virginia Housing has programs to address the need. However, in the last 10 years only 1 project has been approved in Chesapeake and no programs have even been applied for in the last 5 years. Neighboring cities have had much more interest.
- Another group who are often ignored is homeowners who make less than 30% of median income and therefore meet the standard for assistance, many of whom are seniors.
- **Increase housing accessibility and affordability for families and individuals.** There is some duplication of efforts so streamlining and identifying best practices is necessary. Bill Young from ForKids advised that the hotline only has access to resources that already exist and many times the resource being requested doesn't exist.
- **Reduce Homelessness for individuals and families in Chesapeake.** Resource Center offers meals, laundry, showers. CAST will be operating Dec to Feb. with reduced capacity, which was 50-60 pre-Covid. Probably only will serve 1/3 of that. There are faith-based groups looking to mentor people, to maintain stability and housing once people are housed.
- **Covid caused a loss in available landlords.** CRHA is trying to get them back. HUD offers automatic rent payments at the first of every month. If the client is not paying, then CRHA case manager will work with them to get them to pay. If the client continues to not pay their portion, they could lose their voucher.



Participant/Community ideas to reduce homelessness:

- City can consider rent increase cap policy for landlords
- Identify usable land
- Waive development fees
- Economic development/large employers
- Tax incentives/rebates
- Affordable housing trust
- Emergency rental assistance program
- Regional partnerships
- Unused mall space
- Tiny houses
- Container homes
- In-law suites/zoning
- Seniors-rent out rooms in their homes, maybe through a matching program

Meeting of the Housing Group is the 1st Monday of each month at 3 pm at CRHA.

